Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03 FEA-01 INT-05 OES-06 /087 W

-----202322Z 115911 /61

R 201316Z JAN 77 FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2811 INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 3001 AMEMBASSY TEHRAN USMISSION GENEVA USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, IR, EEC
SUBJECT: EC COMMISSION OFFICIALS OUTLINE PLANS FOR EC/IRAN
COOPERATION AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS

REF: (A) 76 EC BRUSSELS 12605, (B) 76 EC BRUSSELS 9421

- 1. EC COMMISSION OFFICIALS TELL US THAT MANFRED CASPARI, COMMISSION DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, HAS SUGGESTED A MEETING WITH IRANIAN UNDER SECRECTARY OF FINANCE IN TEHRAN NEAR THE END OF THIS MONTH. THE PRUPOSE OF THIS MEETING WOULD BE TO ARRANGE THE MODALITIES OF THE EC/IRAN COOPERATION AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS. CASPARI IS AWAITING A GOI REPLY TO HIS PROPOSAL.
- 2. FOLLOWING THE CASPARI VISIT, COMMISSION CHIEF FOR MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS, KLAUS EWIG, PLANS TO LEAD A TEAM OF EXPERTS TO TEHRAN IN LATE FEBRUARY TO NEGOTIATE THE SPECIFICS OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE AGREEMENT. AT THAT TIME EWIG HOPES TO REACH GENERAL AGREEMENT ON THE ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION PROVISIONS. THESE PROVISIONS WILL BE SIMILAR TO THE RECENT EC/CANADIAN AGREEMENT. HE WOULD ALSO EXPLORE GOI IDEAS REGARDING TRADE PROVISIONS, ESPECIALLY ACCESS OF IRANIAN REFINED PETROLEUM PRODUCTS (R.P.P.) TO THE EC MARKET, BUT A COUNCIL MANDATE WOULD BE NEEDED BEFORE

THE COMMISSION COULD UNDERTAKE TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WITH IRAN.

- 3. EWIG DOES NOT TAKE SERIOUSLY THE GOI'S CONTINUED REQUEST FOR PREFERENTIAL TRADE ARRANGEMENTS. (SEE REF. A.) HE CONSIDERS THIS AS AN OPENING NEGOTIATION PLOY; HE ADDS THAT THE GOI FULLY UNDERSTANDS THAT THIS WILL NOT BE A PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENT.
- 4. EC PERMDEL OFFICIALS SAY THAT SO FAR THE GOI HAS NOT INDICATED A DESIRE TO ACCELERATE THE PACE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AND THE EC WOULD PREFER TO LET THEM DRAG OUT. THE EC WANTS TO PROCEED SLOWLY BECAUSE THEY EXPECT ONEROUS NEGOTIATIONS OVER THE TRADE PROVISIONS AND BECAUSE MEMBER STATES ARE NOT IN AGREEMENT OVER HOW TO HANDLE R.P.P. HINTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, NEGOTIATIONS

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 20-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am

Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event:

Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ECBRU00560
Document Source: CORE

Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A

Errors: N/A **Expiration:**

Film Number: D770022-0238

Format: TEL

From: EC BRUSSELS Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770134/aaaabdht.tel

Line Count: 78 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 91f207d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION EUR

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 76 EC BRUSSELS 12605, 76 EC BRUSSELS 9421

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 22-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am **Review Event:**

Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 3550776 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: EC COMMISSION OFFICIALS OUTLINE PLANS FOR EC/IRAN COOPERATION AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS

TAGS: ETRD, IR, EEC

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/91f207d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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